

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7012
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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FR, GW
SUBJECT: SPD REACTION TO FRENCH COMMUNIST STATEMENTS
ON GERMANY

1. LEST IT BE LOST IN THE BROADER SWEEP OF EVENTS
SURROUNDING THE FRENCH ELECTIONS, WE ARE REPORTING BELOW
GERMAN PRESS COMMENTARY ON RECENT STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED
TO THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) AS WELL AS THE SHARP
REACTION TO THESE STATEMENTS FROM THE FRG'S SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD).

2. THE MARCH 9 "FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU" REPORTED
REMARKS APPARENTLY MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DEFENSE
COMMITTEE OF THE PCF, LOUIS BAILLOT, ON THE SUBJECT OF
GERMANY AND THE PLUTON WEAPON. BAILLOT WAS QUOTED AS
SAYING "THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY COULD BECOME
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AN ENEMY OF FRANCE TOMORROW, ABOVE ALL IF A LEFT
GOVERNMENT CAME INTO POWER HERE. THUS, THE PLUTON CAN
BECOME A MEANS TO PROTECT THE 'HEXAGON'." (HEXAGON
REFERS TO THE SIX-SIDED SHAPE OF FRANCE.)

3. WE HAVE HEARD SEVERAL EXTREMELY CRITICAL COMMENTS
ABOUT THIS STATEMENT FROM SPD QUARTERS, AND THE FOREIGN

AFFAIRS BUNDESTAG SPOKESMAN FOR THE PARTY, PETER
CORTIER, HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT CALLING THE REPORTED
BAILLOT REMARKS BOTH UNBELIEVABLE AND SHOCKING.

4. WHILE ATTENTION IN THE FRG AS ELSEWHERE IS OF COURSE
FOCUSSED ON THE BIGGER PICTURE OF THE RECENT FRENCH
ELECTORAL RESULTS, WE BELIEVE THESE REMARKS BY BAILLOT
WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN, AND MAY SERVE IN THE FUTURE AS
ANOTHER REMINDER TO THE SPD, AND PARTICULARLY TO ITS
LEFT, ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF A LEFT COALITION
GOVERNMENT IN FRANCE FOR FRENCH-GERMAN RELATIONS.
STOESSEL

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